

## **RONALD B. WEBSTER**

Ronald B. Webster, long time Colfax attorney, suddenly passed away on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at Whitman Hospital in Colfax. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, April 13th at Peace Lutheran Church in Colfax.

Ron was born June 11, 1942 in Cle Elum, WA to Burnette and Lucille (Beck) Webster. The Webster family moved to Coeur d' Alene, ID until Ron was four years old. They then moved to Spokane where Ron attended Grant Elementary and graduated from Lewis & Clark High School in 1960. He continued his education at the

University of Washington where he graduated with a degree in Political Science in 1964. In 1964 and 1965 Ron studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France and traveled throughout Europe. He returned to Spokane in 1965 and enrolled at Gonzaga Law School. Ron

graduated with his Juris Doctorate in 1969, then began his legal career as a Deputy Prosecutor in Longview, WA. He met Gail Skinner in the Kelso/Longview area while she was

working as a social worker for DSHS. The couple married on June 26, 1971 in Olympia, WA, In 1973, Ron and Gail moved to Colfax where he joined the law office of Lawrence Hickman. He continued in private legal practice until his death. Ron was very active in the community through his involvement with Cub and Boy Scouts with his son Noel: member and council member at Peace Lutheran Church: Past-President and long time member of Colfax Rotary Club by whom he was honored with the Paul Harris Fellow award: Past-President of Whitman County Library Board; Past-President and member of Whitman County Cougar Club; Past-President of Colfax and Community Fund; member of Washington State Bar Association, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association and Whitman County Bar Association; board member of Colfax Golf Club; volunteer for Northwest Justice Project and Whitman County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Program; board member of Center Stage theater in Spokane; and member of the Whitman County Civil Service Commission. Ron was also active in community theater in which he played the memorable roles of Pappy Yokum in Lil' Abner, Uncle Max in The Sound of Music, the Governor in The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, among many others. Over the years, the Webster family hosted five exchange students through Rotary Youth Exchange. Ron also participated in many outdoor activities including spending time at the family cabin and boating on Lake Coeur d' Alene, downhill skiing, jogging and golf, all of which he enjoyed with many friends and family members throughout the years. In recent years, Ron and Gail traveled to Belize, England and Scotland, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, and most recently to Mexico and Cuba. Ron was a beloved member of the Colfax and Spokane communities, adored by many friends, and is thought of with fondness, laughter, and good humor by all who were fortunate to know him. Ron was a wonderful father and father figure, and was adored by his children and the many young people that spent time in the Webster household throughout the years. He was a caring and compassionate individual and attorney, always willing to give of himself through pro bono and discounted legal services, volunteerism, and other contributions. Ron loved the practice of law and took pleasure in serving his many clients. He appreciated living in Colfax and was a proud citizen of the Palouse. Ron is survived by his wife Gail, his children Noel Webster and wife Christy in Gig Harbor, WA, and Michelle Webster and her fiance, Leyland McGann in Washington, DC, and sister Judy Allemand and husband Lonnie in Worley, ID. He is also survived by Vijitra Duangdee and her husband Brian in Eugene, OR, as well as six nieces and nephews. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Burnie and Lucille, and his brother, Jerry. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Peace Lutheran Church, 309 N. Lake St., Colfax; the Whitman Hospital Foundation, 1200 W. Fairview, Colfax; Colfax and Community Fund, P.O. Box 185, Colfax; and Lutheran World Relief, www.lwr.org. On-line guest book is at www.bruningfuneralhome.com Bruning Funeral Home, Colfax, in charge of arrangements.



## Jerry V. Smith, 85, Lewiston

April 18, 2010

Jerry Vickers Smith (Big Daddy) (Grandpa) and (Boppa), who practiced law in Lewiston for nearly 60 years and amassed an incredible record of public service, including a term as president of the Idaho State Bar, a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, president of the Western States Bar Conference, and a recipient of both the Professionalism and Pro Bono awards, died Sunday, April 11, 2010, at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, surrounded by his loving family and friends. At 85 years old, Jerry passed away from secondary injuries he suffered while doing what he liked best,

going for a walk with his best friend, his dog.

Smith, a native of Boise, was a partner for many years in the law firm of Smith and Cannon, located in Lewiston. In 2002, after practicing law for 52 years, Jerry received the Idaho State Bar Association's highest honor, the Distinguished Lawyer Award. His longtime friend, Merlyn Clark said, "I know of no recipient of the Distinguished Lawyer Award more worthy than Jerry Smith. He is the ideal of our profession, in demeanor, intellect, courage and empathy." Jerry loved practicing law and continued his practice well into his retirement years, much the same as his friend and professional role model, Laurel Elam, a Boise attorney who practiced law until three weeks before he died at the age of 87.

Jerald Vickers Smith was born in Boise on May 3, 1924, the second child of Walter E. Smith Sr. and Laurel Vickers Smith. Jerry grew up in Boise's north end with his big brother Billy (Judge W. E. Smith) as a typical 1930s Boise youngster. He attended Lowell School through the eighth grade, and Boise High School, graduating in 1942. He enrolled in the University of Idaho and was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. Like many young men of this time, Jerry left UI before graduation and entered the U.S. Navy as an aviator cadet. He learned to fly PBYs and obtained the rank of lieutenant. After the end of World War II, Jerry returned to Moscow and his beloved UI, to finish his degree.

Jerry had planned to seek a career in hotel management, but his brother Bill was entering UI Law School and asked Jerry to join him. At that time, the Cornell University School of Hotel Management was only taking New York residents and Jerry decided that many of the classes he would take in law school would be advantageous in his "chosen" career of hotel management. So, he joined his brother in Moscow, and loved the courses, loved the discussions and loved the camaraderie among the students. He never gave hotel management another thought and finished his law degree at UI in 1950. He loved practicing law in those years. It was a time when a handshake with an opposing attorney was a binding agreement. Several lawyers and judges mentored Jerry through the years. An example can be taken from a direct quote from Jerry in 2002: "Judge Leo McCarty, in Lewiston, initially appointed me to my first case. I was to defend a couple of alleged cattle rustlers in Lewis County. We were in a remote area and both of us were staying in the county seat, Nezperce. The first evening after the difficult initial day of trial, the judge started telling me what I should do the next day, and the next, and every evening he would coach me on what I should do in the courtroom the next day. Through the years Judge McCarty continued to be a great resource for me." Another instance Jerry used to refer to was his relationship with Paul Hyatt. Jerry used to say he was the kind of guy who would set anything aside he was doing and walk him through whatever legal problem he was having with never a moment's hesitation.

Smith served as an adjunct professor of law at UI, where he taught students such things as taking depositions, drafting pleadings and other typical practical information. At the end of each semester he would invite his class to visit his law office. He was known to instill in his students one of his cardinal rules of practicing law: "Always be courteous to other lawyers." He would say, "You can disagree, but do it in a professional manner." He was fond of telling the story of one "prickly" lawyer who everyone found difficult. But typical to Jerry's style, he didn't let this lawyer get under his skin. He always treated him with courtesy regardless of how abrasive the lawyer became. Later in Jerry's career, this lawyer provided him some very important background information for one of his cases. So, true to what Jerry believed and practiced - what goes around comes around.

Jerry was an outdoorsman. He loved playing tennis, riding his bicycle, fly-fishing and snow skiing - activities he pursued his whole life. Following his retirement in 2005, Jerry enjoyed following the Lewis-Clark State College Warriors baseball team, and you would see him in the stands of most home games. He also loved the Seattle Mariners and all UI Vandal sports. Jerry married his wife, Paulette Stonebraker, in 1976, blending the family with Paulette's three children: Steve, Toniann and Brady with Jerry's son Brad. Jerry was loving as a parent and as a stepparent.

Relatives who survive Jerry are his wife, Paulette; sons Brad Smith of Edmonds, Wash., Steve Tilden of Lewiston, and Brady Bly and wife April of Lewiston; daughters Marcia Torrey and her husband Jerry of Portland, Ore.; Joan Nelson and her husband Dick of Sacramento, Calif., and Toniann Jurgensen and her husband Jeff of Bellevue, Wash.; his sister-in-law, Eileen C. Smith of Boise; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and of course his beloved Norwich terrier, Doozie.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Bill and a wife, Betty Lou Braddock.

Services are at 11 a.m. Saturday at Vassar-Rawls Funeral Home in Lewiston.

The family suggests memorial gifts be made to the LCSC baseball team, c/o: Robin Bogar, 500 Eighth Ave., Lewiston, ID 83501; or YWCA, 300 Main St., Lewiston, ID 83501.

